

HB1073



97TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2011 and 2012

HB1073

Introduced 02/03/11, by Rep. Sandra M. Pihos

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

720 ILCS 5/12-7.7 new

Amends the Criminal Code of 1961 to create the offense of perpetual harassment. Provides that purposely and repeatedly harassing another person or following with the intent to harass another person constitutes the offense. Provides that a first conviction is a Class A misdemeanor and a second or subsequent conviction is a Class 4 felony if the offense was committed against the same victim.

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CORRECTIONAL
BUDGET AND
IMPACT NOTE ACT
MAY APPLY

A BILL FOR

1 AN ACT concerning criminal law.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The Criminal Code of 1961 is amended by adding
5 Section 12-7.7 as follows:

6 (720 ILCS 5/12-7.7 new)

7 Sec. 12-7.7. Perpetual harassment.

8 (a) A person commits perpetual harassment when he or she
9 purposely and repeatedly harasses another person or follows
10 another person with the intent of harassing that person.

11 (b) Sentence. Perpetual harassment is a Class A
12 misdemeanor. A second or subsequent conviction for perpetual
13 harassment is a Class 4 felony if the offense was committed
14 against the same victim.

15 (c) For the purposes of this Section, "harass" means to
16 engage in a course of conduct directed at a specific person
17 that serves no legitimate purpose, that would cause a
18 reasonable person to suffer substantial emotional distress,
19 and that actually causes substantial emotional distress to that
20 person; and "substantial emotional distress" means significant
21 mental suffering, anxiety, or alarm.